

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A sheet of laundry detergent comprising a layer containing a detergent composition and a water-soluble substrate provided on both sides of the layer, wherein said layer comprises a water-soluble or disintegrating-in-water particle group, having an average particle diameter of 60 to 2000 μm , consisting of a particle group obtained by spray-drying a slurry containing at least one member selected from the group consisting of a water-soluble inorganic material, a water-insoluble or water-sparingly-soluble inorganic material and a water-soluble organic material, and/or a detergent particle group comprising a surfactant carried on said particle group wherein when said particle group is introduced into water at 5°C, stirred for 60 seconds, and passed through a standard screen that has an opening of 7.4 μm as described in JIS Z 8801, the degree of dissolution is at least 90% as calculated by the following formula (1)

$$\text{Degree of dissolution (\%)} = [1 - (T/S)] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

wherein

S is a weight of the particle group introduced,

T is a dry weight in grams of a residue from the particle group remaining on the standard screen through which an aqueous solution has been sifted obtained under the following stirring conditions,

1 g of the particle group is introduced into 1 L hard water in a 1 L beaker with an inner diameter of 105 mm and stirred at a revolution rate of 800 rpm with a stirrer, wherein said 1 L hard water is defined as 71.2 mg CaCO_3 /L water, with a molar ratio of Ca/Mg of 7/3, and said stirrer has a stirrer length of 35 mm and a diameter of 8 mm.

2. (original) The sheet of laundry detergent according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble or disintegrating-in-water particle group gives less than 0.025 g residue on a screen after 0.5 g of the particle group is introduced into 1 L water at 10 °C, stirred at a revolution rate of 800 rpm for 10 minutes, and sifted through a screen of 200 mesh size.

3. (original) The sheet of laundry detergent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the content of the water-soluble or disintegrating-in-water particle group in said layer is 10 to 90 % by weight.

4. (previously presented) The sheet of laundry detergent according to claim 1, wherein the detergent composition is a dough-like material or a paste-like material.

5. (previously presented) A method of producing a sheet of laundry detergent, which comprising mixing a detergent composition with a water-soluble or disintegrating-in-water particle group having an average particle diameter of 60 to 2000 μm , consisting of a particle group obtained by spray-drying slurry containing at least one member selected from a water-soluble inorganic material, a water-insoluble or water-sparingly-soluble inorganic material and a water-soluble organic material and/or a detergent particle group comprising a surfactant carried on said particle group, then forming the resulting mixture into a layer, and joining a water-soluble substrate on both sides of the resulting layer.

6. (previously presented) The sheet of laundry detergent according to claim 1, wherein the layer comprises a detergent particle group obtained by spray-drying a slurry containing at least one member selected from the group consisting of a water-insoluble inorganic material, a water-soluble polymer and a water-soluble inorganic material to obtain a particle group and comprising a surfactant carried on the particle group.

7. (previously presented) The sheet of laundry detergent according to claim 1, wherein the layer comprises a detergent particle group obtained by spray-drying a slurry containing at least one member selected from the group consisting of 20 to 90 % by weight of a water-insoluble inorganic material, 2 to 30 % by weight of a water-soluble polymer and 5 to 78% by weight of a water-soluble salt to obtain a particle group and comprising a surfactant carried on the particle group.